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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

Examiner:

Ceperley, Mary

Peter Wagner, et al.

Art Unit:

1641

Application No.: 09/820,210

ELECTION OF SPECIES

Filed: March 27, 2001

For: SITE-SPECIFIC COVALENT **BIOCONJUGATION OF PROTEINS**

Assistant Commissioner for Patents Washington, D.C. 20231

Madam:

Applicants thank the Examiner for her time in clarifying the restriction requirement in a telephone conversation on February 13, 2003.

In response to the Restriction Requirement mailed August 16, 2002 and the Office communication mailed February 5, 2003, please consider the following remarks.

REMARKS

In Applicants' previous response dated January 21, 2003, Applicants elected the claims of Group I (Claims 1-13, 24, 26, 27, 29, 31, and 34) for prosecution on the merits drawn to heterofunctional crosslinking reagents and conjugates.

The Examiner asserts that Group I contains numerous patentably distinct inventions. The Examiner further asserts that Applicants are required to elect a single